(c) what are the reasons given by the States for their reluctance to implement the Act; and

(d) what action is being taken to enforce this legislation in those States ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, as per information available with the Central Government, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has issued orders not to launch cases against traders under the Essential Commodities Act, but to limit action to suspension|confiscation|cancellation of licenses issued under Control Orders of Essential Commodities Act, of traders found indulging in offences of blackmarketing| hoarding of essential commodities. Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is examining the question of setting up a committee to look into the provisions of various Control Orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act to see whether any Control Order has lost its relevance and could be modified.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that it had noticed that there was misuse of powers given under the EC Act, which resulted in harassment of traders, by way of initiating cases for small offences, and that the GOI vide its order dated 9-2-88 had observed that action under EC Act, in small cases, caused harassment to traders. It has further informed that in view of abundant availability of essential commodities in the State, there is no need to launch cases against traders, under the EC Act.

The GOI has always maintained that prosecution under EC Act should not be launched in small cases and has issued guidelines to this effect. The GOI would impress upon all States including Uttar Pradesh that basic responsibility to maintain adequate supply of essential commodities lies with the State Governments and the State Governments should take recourse to the penal provisions of the EC Act, whenever the gravity of the offence so demands.

Functioning of Offices connected with Exports on All Seven Days

*248. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received requests regarding functioning of all Government offices connected with exports in the States and Centre on all seven days of week;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action in matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The demand is that all Govt. and Semi-Govt. offices connected with exports should work round the clock.

(c) and (d) Cargo handling operations at major sea and airports are already being done seven days a week. Customs clearance facility for export cargo is also available at Delhi and Bombay airports for extended hours on regular basis. Government is favourably inclined to provide these facilities at other major air and sea routes.

Coal Mine Projects

*249. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of coal mines projects in different sectors in mixed economy;

(b) what are the State-wise|Sector-wise details thereof;

(c) what is the net profit earned by them during the year 1992-93 and in the current financial year;

(d) whether Government have set any target for increasing the production in coal mines during the year 1993-94;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what steps Government propose to take to improve the performance of the coal mines during the year 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) None Sir in mixed economy of both public and private.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The target set for CIL & SCCL for the year 1993-94 is 244 million tonnes showing an increase of 10.27 million tonnes over the actual production of 1992-93. Details are given in the statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(f) Some of the steps taken to improve the performance of the coal mines are as under :—

(i) Improvement in equipment utilisation in opencast through improved facilities for repair, maintenance, better availability of HEMM, expeditious erection & commissioning of equipment, spare parts depots, monitoring of equipment performance by better communication & control.

(ii) Improving operational practices in opencast mines by better fragmentation, proper haul road, bench formation, hot-seat change, mobile canteen vans, transportation of workers, etc.

(iii) Modernisation & rationalisation in underground mines for improvement in productivity.

Statement

The State-wise/company-wise details of number of coal mines and production target for 1993–94 *are given below.*

Public Sector	State	No. of coal mines	Poduction target for 1993–94 (million tonnes)
1	2	3	4
(i) Coal India Ltd. (CIL)	Bihar	161	
	West Benal	110	
	Madhya Pradesh	111	
	Mahrashtra	37	
	Orissa	21	
	Assam	5	
	Uttar Pradesh	4	
		449	220.00

1	2	3	4
(ii) Singareni Collieris Co. Ltd. (SCCL)	Andhra Pradesh	66	24.00
) Indian Iron & Steel Company (IISCO)	Bihar	2	
	West Bengal	1	
(iv) Damodar Valley Corporation (OVC)	Bihar	1	5.00
Private Sector (v) Tata Iron & Steel Company (IISCO)	Bihar	8	
	Total	527	249.00

National convention of consumer organisations

*252. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to reinforce the consumer movement and to take the movement to rural and backward areas in association with the voluntary consumer organisations;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have organised or propose to organise a national convention of consumer organisations to provide more teeth to the Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum;

(d) if so, what are the details of the proposal and what will be the objectives and functions of the Forum; and

(e) what will be the composition of the Forum and how the members of the Forum would be appointed ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government accords high priority to promoting a strong and broad based consumer movement in the country, particularly in the rural and backward areas with the help of voluntary consumer organisations. Government encourages formation of such organisations in the rural and backward areas. Government has a scheme to give financial assistance to consumer organisations where